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NIGHT LEAD THURMOND

WASHINGTON, DEC. 3 (UPI)—THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY GREETED WITH SILENCE SEN. STROM THURMOND'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THE DEPARTMENT "HAS PREPARED A PAPER FOR THE TURNING OVER OF OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS."

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO REPLY. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON THURMOND'S SPEECH SATURDAY NIGHT TO AN APPLAUDING AUDIENCE AT AN ARKANSAS AMERICAN LEGION CONFERENCE IN LITTLE ROCK.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATOR CALLED FOR A CLEAN-UP IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO ASSAILED THE MEMORANDUM TO THE DEPARTMENT BY SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., WARNING AGAINST INVOLVEMENT BY MILITARY LEADERS IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED WHAT HE TERMED "SILENT SOCILISTS" IN HIGH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND "LEFT WING" NEWSPAPERS.

THURMOND TODAY REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON THIS STATEMENT ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT PAPER, WHICH HE MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY IN HIS SPEECH.

"I HAVE BEEN INFORMED SUCH A PAPER EXISTS," HE SAID TODAY. "I AM NOT GOING TO SAY WHETHER I HAVE SEEN THIS PAPER MYSELF OR NOT. I AM NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE SUBJECT."

THURMOND HAS TOLD THE LEGIONNAIRES:

"I AM INFORMED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED A PAPER FOR THE TURNING OVER OF OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

"WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET THOSE WEAPONS GO THE UNITED NATIONS," HE SAID. "IF THE COMMUNISTS REPUDIATE THE U.N. CHARTER THEN WHERE WOULD WE STAND?"

THE 1948 DIXIECRAT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DID NOT MENTION FULBRIGHT BY NAME BUT IT WAS EVIDENT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE ARKANSAS SENATOR'S MEMORANDUM. THURMOND CALLED IT "THE MOST SHOCKING DOCUMENT THAT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN THE SENATE."

HE PRAISED REP. DALE ALFORD, D-ARK., AND GOV. ORVAL E. FAUBUS, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE OPPONENTS OF FULBRIGHT IN NEXT SUMMER'S DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.